



SEIU Local 500
901 Russell Avenue, Suite 300, Gaithersburg, MD 20879
April 13TH, 2023
RE: Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget

President Glass and the Montgomery County Council Members,

My name is Pia Morrison, and I am president of SEIU Local 500. Our union is over 20 thousand strong serving the residents of this county from cradle to career. Our members play vital roles at Montgomery County Public Schools. From the building services technicians that provide a safe and clean learning environment to the paraeducators ensuring our children with special needs receive an equal education, and even the bus drivers that return them home safely each day, SEIU Local 500 members' vocations are centered around creating a quality learning environment for all children in this county. Our county has weathered budget shortfalls and a global health crisis. Many times, the sacrifices necessary to meet these challenges have been put on the backs of public workers. This is a year where that must stop. Economic recovery means returning our funding levels to where they were before these crises. Under the current budget request by County Executive Marc Elrich, a proposed revenue enhancement measure through an increase in property taxes is necessary to fully fund our schools. We support this measure to ensure that all public services in this county are fully funded and the quality of our children's education is not once again asked to bear the brunt of budget shortfalls. The consequences of not fully funding our schools are felt far beyond these chambers. Recruiting and retaining talented educators and support professionals will be casualties of failing to act. Stability and quality learning environments for students will be casualties of failing to act. The well-being of our most vulnerable children will be casualties if you fail to act.

We urge you to pass the necessary revenue enhancement measures to ensure the full funding of Montgomery County Public Schools.

Pia Morrison
President, SEIU Local 500